

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **INTERPROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN PATIENT SAFETY**

TAMPA, FL, MAY 1, 2006: The VISN 8 Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, located at the James A. Haley VA Hospital has been approved by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) as a site for the Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety. Two fellows will be funded starting as early as July 1, 2006.

The purpose of the Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety is to provide post-residency trained physicians and post doctoral or post master's degree trained associated health professionals in-depth education in patient safety practice and leadership. This program takes advantage of the resources of the internationally renowned VHA National Center for Patient Safety both to provide outstanding training opportunities and to contribute to the improvement of patient safety within the VA system, the body of knowledge of research in patient safety, patient safety education to clinicians in training and practice, and the recruitment and retention of patient safety practitioners, officers, managers, researchers and administrators.

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Applicants will be eligible to participate in this program provided that they have completed all requirements needed to be a fully credentialed independent practitioner in their field at a VA facility. Physicians must be either board-eligible or certified in a recognized medical specialty. Applicants from clinical disciplines requiring doctoral level education to qualify as an independent practitioner must possess the required degree (e.g. DDS, DPM, PhD, etc.). Clinical fields that recognize independent practitioners possessing degree levels below that of Master's Degree (e.g., Registered Nurse or Registered Dietitian) must have completed a Master's Degree (or all requirements for the degree) to be eligible for participation in this program. Nurses, social workers, and health care administrators must possess at least a master's degree. Applicants in academic fields that do not involve clinical certification or licensure but that can be applicable to health systems (e.g. anthropology, sociology, computer science/medical informatics, engineering, etc.) must have received a Ph.D. in their field, or demonstrate that all requirements for such a degree have been completed.

Additional information will be available on the VISN 8 Patient Safety Center of Inquiry's web site:

<http://www.visn8.med.va.gov/patientsafetycenter/>

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